

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Grazing and Hayland

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grazing and Hayland		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	

7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will this EQIP application correct deficiencies in agricultural waste or water quality oriented land management practice associated with one or more land units located in a watershed containing an agriculturally stressed segment of water identified on the State of Vermont 303(d) list of impaired waters, surface water source protection areas, or in a public wellhead protection area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will this treatment address a critical water quality resource concern on a farm located in the Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does this application include one or more practices traditionally underutilized in Vermont?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Has an approved Grazing Plan (meeting NRCS standards) been developed/updated, but not fully implemented, and will be addressed with this application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will the applicant convert an existing livestock confinement operation (pasture is not utilized or is substantially underutilized) to a grass/pasture-based operation and a minimum of 50% of current annual or rotated cropland operated by the applicant is converted to permanent vegetation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Are there not enough grazing acres to meet the grazing requirements of the existing livestock at the time of application based on a completed grazing plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will all pastures where livestock have access to perennial or intermittent streams be treated (livestock will be excluded from surface waters or access will be managed)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Does the application contain a practice for improving grassland bird habitat through Delayed mowing, or Delayed grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Is the planning area within the High Priority Champlain Valley Grassland Bird Area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Is there a significant change in the current management (e.g. frequent disturbance from 3-4 cuts a year to 2-3 cuts under this new management)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Are adjacent lands predominantly in pasture/hayland/other grassland? Using a 160 acre block centered around the field(s) in question, does grassland comprise 65% or greater area of the block?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Bennington Local Working Group	
1. Does this application include practices to control livestock access to streams?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

2. Does this application include practices which will have the effect of creating a buffer between the pasture and the stream in order to improve water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does this application address erosion or other water quality issues occurring within 100 feet of a blue line stream, or on a gully emptying into a blue line stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does this application provide water for livestock?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does this application address invasive plant management issues?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Franklin and Grand Isle Local Working Group	
6. Does this application include practices that facilitate excluding livestock from water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does this application reduce erosion that causes sedimentation into water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Does this application improve nutrient distribution within pastures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Does this application restore or protect riparian vegetation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Does this application convert cropland into rotational grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Poultney Mettawee Local Working Group	
11. Will this application address water quality concerns within 100' of an impaired waterbody or waters indicating high nutrient counts according to PMNRCD water quality monitoring?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Will this application address soil erosion within 50' of a river corridor as delineated in a river corridor plan or within 100' of a blue line stream if there is no river corridor plan for the planned area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Will this application be part of a farm plan for increased nutrient management planning (development or implementation of an NMP or nutrient management work with a trained consultant)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. Will this application include invasive plant control?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. Will there be a change in land management as a result of this application (e.g. reduction of disturbance from 3-4 cuts per year to 2-3 cuts per year?) in order to improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Rutland Local Working Group	
16. Will this application fence livestock from a stream which would have the effect of creating a buffer between the pasture operation and stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. Will this application address Soil Erosion occurring within 100' of a blue line stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. Will this application address soil health through the implementation of forage and biomass planting, waste recycling, and/or nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. Will this application include invasive plant control?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
20. Will this application improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Ottawaquechee Local Working Group	
21. To help address resource concerns resulting from a livestock confinement operation, will the applicant convert an existing livestock confinement operation (pasture is not utilized or is substantially underutilized) to a grass/pasture-based operation and a minimum of 50% of current annual or rotated cropland operated by the applicant is converted to permanent hayland or pasture?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
22. Does this application address grassland bird habitat within the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
23. Were conservation practices selected that help reduce nitrogen loading in any surface water in the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
24. Does this application address resource concerns that are a result of uncontrolled livestock access to streams?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
25. Does this application include watering facilities for livestock in order to improve grazing management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Windham Local Working Group	
26. Will this application include practices supporting conversion from a confinement operation to a grass-based operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
27. Will this application include practices to control livestock access to streams?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
28. Will this application include implementation of prescribed grazing for improved pasture health/condition?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
29. Will this application include control of invasive species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

30. Will this application include practices that help reduce nitrogen loading into surface waters that feed into the Connecticut River?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Caledonia Local Working Group	
31. Does application address excluding livestock from streams and waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
32. Does this application include practices that control soil erosion on pasture land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
33. Does the application include a nutrient management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
34. Does the application include practices that improve soil health by reducing compaction, improving fertility and/or building organic matter?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
35. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Lamoille Local Working Group	
36. Does this application include practices that facilitate excluding livestock from water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
37. Does this application reduce erosion that causes sedimentation into water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
38. Does this application improve nutrient distribution within pastures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
39. Does this application restore or protect riparian vegetation with a 35 foot buffer zone?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
40. Does this application convert cropland into rotational grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Orleans Local Working Group	
41. Does this application include practices that will address soil compaction?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
42. . Is this application within the Mud Creek, Sterns Brook, Black River, or John's River watersheds?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
43. Does this application incorporate nutrient management planning and soil fertility practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
44. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
45. Does this application include practices that exclude livestock from waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
White River Local Working Group	
46. Will this application include practices that include aeration tillage of pastureland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
47. Will this application address soil health concerns by implementing soil sampling practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
48. Will this application exclude livestock from streams and wet areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
49. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
50. Will this application include practices that will improve pasture quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Otter Creek Local Working Group	
51. Does this applicant have a grazing management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
52. Does this EQIP applicant have a nutrient management plan and does the application include practice identified in the nutrient management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
53. Will this EQIP application result in the installation of a heavy use area as a component of a watering facility, or will it reduce denuded heavy use areas by better rotation of watering facilities?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
54. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing streambank and stream crossing erosion in a pasture?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
55. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by implementing at least one of the following practices; fence (592) or animal trails and walkways (575)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Winooski Local Working Group	
56. Will the proposed project lead to better soil quality on degraded lands?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
57. Does the proposed project provide assurances for the protection of soil and water resources?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
58. Does this application address concentrated areas of feeding and watering and plan for more even distribution of animal waste?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
59. Will the proposed project lead to better water quality by limiting access to adjacent waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
60. Is the proposed project identified in a Grazing Plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Essex Local Working Group	
61. Does application address excluding livestock from streams and waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
62. Does this application include practices that control soil erosion on pasture land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

63. Does the application include a nutrient management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
64. Does the application include practices that improve soil health by reducing compaction, improving fertility and/or building organic matter?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
65. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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